

AP. 146
COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 576.

GAMBIA.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, see No. 536.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
October, 1908.



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(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 536.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,

Bathurst, Gambia,

22nd August, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to attach my report on the Blue Book for 1907, which is being forwarded to Your Lordship by this mail.

I have, &c.,

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,

Acting Governor.

The Right Honourable

The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

1. The total revenue for the year amounted to £65,892, being an increase on the estimated revenue, £58,730, of £7,162, and an increase of £462 as compared with that of 1906, which exceeded the revenue of any previous year between 1895 and 1905 by £9,866.

2. The following figures show the amounts collected under the various heads of revenue for the years 1906 and 1907, with the several increases and decreases:—

Heads of Revenue.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	£	£	£	£
Customs	51,013	52,048	1,035	—
Port Dues	931	894	—	37
Licences, Excise, &c.	1,838	1,712	—	126
Fees of Court, &c.	1,056	1,041	—	15
Post Office... ..	1,317	745	—	572
Rents, Government Property ...	314	389	75	—
Government Vessels	257	42	—	215
Interest	1,533	1,258	—	275
Protectorate	6,180	7,208	1,028	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	806	457	—	349
Land Sales... ..	186	98	—	88
Total	65,431	65,892	2,138	1,677

3. The increases were due to the importation of larger quantities of tobacco, kola nuts, and rice, and also to the ground nut crop, on which an export duty is charged, being larger than in 1906.

4. The decreases were due:—

Under “Licences” to licences being taken out in 1908 instead of at the end of 1907;

Under “Post Office” to a small sale of stamps. There were two surcharges in 1906.

Under “Government Vessels” to the Colonial steamer having been laid up for repairs during the greater part of the year;

Under “Interest” to sale of investments; and

Under “Miscellaneous” to fewer sales of old stores and presents.

5. The amount of revenue received under Customs was:—Import duty, £38,429; export duty, £13,619; making a total of £52,048.

6. The following return shows the amount collected under the several Customs headings for the years 1906 and 1907, with their respective increases and decreases:—

Heads of Receipts.				1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
<i>Imports.</i>				£	£	£	£
<i>Ad Valorem</i>	...	...	...	6,756	6,567	—	189
Wine	...	...	...	1,076	1,006	—	70
Spirits	...	...	...	9,482	5,046	—	4,436
Malt Liquor	...	...	...	190	149	—	41
Tobacco	...	...	...	3,946	5,094	1,148	—
Oils and Turps	...	...	...	930	691	—	239
Sugar	...	...	...	2,845	2,408	—	437
Kola Nuts...	...	...	...	9,812	12,695	2,883	—
Rice	...	...	...	3,041	3,560	519	—
Guns and Pistols	...	...	...	286	214	—	72
Powder	...	...	...	130	98	—	32
Salt...	...	...	...	263	655	392	—
Kerosene	...	...	...	230	240	10	—
Coffee, Raw	...	...	...	9	6	—	3
Total	...	...	...	38,996	38,429	4,952	5,519
<i>Exports.</i>							
Ground nuts	...	...	...	12,017	13,619	1,602	—
Total	...	...	...	51,013	52,048	6,554	5,519

7. The expenditure for the year amounted to £57,729, an increase of £273 over the estimated expenditure of £57,456; the actual revenue, however, exceeded the actual expenditure by £8,164. The expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by only £826.

8. The following return shows the heads of expenditure for 1906 and 1907, together with the various increases and decreases:—

Heads of Expenditure.				1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
				£	£	£	£
Pensions	...	...	...	917	1,219	302	—
The Governor	...	...	...	3,447	3,356	—	91
The Colonial Secretary	...	...	...	1,156	1,198	42	—
The Protectorate	...	...	...	5,885	7,228	1,343	—
Printing Department	...	...	...	338	358	20	—
Treasury	...	...	...	1,043	1,176	133	—
Customs Department	...	...	...	2,159	2,209	50	—
Post Office	...	...	...	713	770	57	—
Audit Department	...	...	...	479	605	126	—
Judicial Department	...	...	...	1,342	1,371	29	—
Attorney-General	...	...	...	456	652	196	—
Carried forward	...	...	...	17,935	20,142	2,298	91

Heads of Expenditure for 1906 and 1907—continued.

Heads of Expenditure.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease
	£	£	£	£
Brought forward	17,935	20,142	2,298	91
Education	740	1,184	444	—
Frontier Force... ..	5,543	6,107	564	—
Police	3,927	3,647	—	280
Prisons	693	774	81	—
Medical Department	3,140	3,247	107	—
Hospitals and Dispensaries	1,104	1,208	104	—
Government Vessels	2,803	2,417	—	386
Charitable Allowances	108	107	—	1
Transport	394	545	151	—
Miscellaneous Services	3,618	3,487	—	131
Drawback and Refunds	153	119	—	34
Agriculture	337	499	162	—
Colonial Engineer's Department	1,717	1,922	205	—
Public Works Recurrent	3,759	7,252	3,493	—
Public Works Extraordinary... ..	7,739	4,991	—	2,748
Special Services	3,191	—	—	3,191
Volunteer Corps	—	79	79	—
Totals	56,901	57,727	7,688	6,862

9. The principal increases are accounted for as follows:—

Pensions.—To the pension due to Mr. C. H. H. Moseley, late Treasurer, for 1906, being paid in 1907, and to additional pensions having to be provided.

Protectorate.—Due to a sum of £983 on account of purchase of ground nut seed issued to the planters during the year, to the clearing of various waterways, additional stipends, and prizes for cleaning native towns.

Education.—Due to the grants earned by the schools for 1906 being paid in 1907.

West African Frontier Force.—To the re-arming of the force and to the erection of an additional range.

Colonial Engineer's Department.—Due to increase in salaries of clerks of works.

Public Works Recurrent.—Due to special repairs to old buildings being transferred to this vote from the vote for Public Works Extraordinary.

10. The principal decreases were under:—

Police.—Owing to supernumeraries having been dispensed with, and to less clothing being required.

Government Vessels.—Owing to the Government yacht "Mansah Kilah" undergoing repairs there was a saving under stores and coal.

Public Works Extraordinary.—Due to various large items being transferred to the vote "Public Works Recurrent."

11. The following return shows the revenue and expenditure for the last five years:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	£	£
1903	55,564	67,504
1904	54,179	52,300
1905	51,868	72,297
1906	65,340	56,988
1907	65,892	57,729

12. There was no change in taxation during the year.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

13. The amount standing to the credit of the Colony on the 31st December, 1907, was £43,500, as compared with £34,583 at the close of 1906, an increase of £9,017.

The surplus funds are invested in various Government securities.

14. The Colony has no public debt.

CURRENCY.

15. The currency of the Colony is British sterling and the French five-franc piece, the latter being accepted by the Government at 3s. 10½d. English and French gold are also legal tender, but are very little used.

RATE OF EXCHANGE.

16. The average rate of exchange for bills drawn on London during the year was one per cent.

COINS IN CIRCULATION.

17. The amount of coin in circulation in the Colony and Protectorate is estimated at £221,250, made up as follows:—

	£
Bank of England Notes	200
British Gold	1,000
British Silver	80,000
French Gold	50
French five-franc pieces	140,000
	£221,250

18. During the year specie was imported to the value of £149,368, as compared with £167,168 in 1906, and £117,828 was exported, as against £129,426 in 1906. The decrease in the importation of specie was no doubt due to the fact that a smaller out-put of ground nuts for the season 1907-8 was anticipated, and consequently less silver would be required.

MUNICIPALITIES, LOCAL BOARDS, &c.

19. There are only two Boards of this nature in the Colony, namely, the Board of Health and the McCarthy Square Board.

20. The Board of Health consists of the Senior Medical Officer and the Colonial Engineer, who are *ex-officio* members, the Superintendent of Police, a Medical Officer, and two leading members of the native community. This year representatives of the Mandingoes and Jolloffs resident in the town were appointed to the Board with satisfactory results.

21. The Board meets fortnightly, and is responsible for the sanitary condition of Bathurst. Its revenue is derived from: (1) rates levied on the annual value of house property in the town at the rate of three per cent.; (2) from fees collected at the slaughter-house; and (3) from a grant-in-aid from the Government. The following revenue was received during the year:—

	£
Balance brought forward from last year	22
Local Rates	575
Slaughter-house Fees	112
Government Grant-in-aid	325
Sale of Stores	2
	£1,036

The expenditure for the same period was:—

	£
Salaries	114
Cleaning Drains and Streets, &c.	520
Lighting of Streets	167
Carts and Horses	127
Special expenditure connected with Mosquito	
Sanitation	204
Miscellaneous	24
	£1,156

an excess of payments over receipts of £120.

22. Ordinarily twenty labourers are employed sweeping and scavenging the town, but for the four months of the rainy season an additional gang is taken on for special work in regard to mosquito sanitation.

23. During the year the carts of the Board removed 1,513 cartloads of refuse, &c., to the dumping ground, and 21 cartloads of old tins and bottles, &c., were similarly dealt with. The Inspector paid 1,952 house to house visits, served 465 notices to abate nuisances, and in 15 cases it was found necessary to take out summonses to enforce sanitation. For a West African town Bathurst may be said to be very presentable, the streets being wide and clean.

McCarthy Square Board.

24. This square, which is situated in the centre of the town, was enclosed in 1905 and placed under separate management in 1906. The square is open to the public as a recreation ground, and games and sports of all kinds are held there. The Board is at present dependent on the Government for a grant for the upkeep of the square, as it has no revenue of its own. The expenditure for the year was £100.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS.

25. The total value of imports for the year amounted to £445,359, as against £447,657 in 1906, a decrease of £2,298. The imports of specie amounted to £149,368, which, when deducted from the total imports, leaves the value of the general imports at £295,981, as compared with £280,489 in 1906, an increase of £15,492 in favour of 1907.

26. The value of cotton goods imported during the year was £82,023, or £7,665 less than in 1906, of which £72,939 came from Great Britain, £7,746 from France, and £1,026 from Germany. The following return shows the principal articles of import for the years 1906 and 1907:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Pkgs.	Pkgs.	£	£	£	£
Cotton Goods ...	3,895	3,449	89,688	82,023	—	7,665
	lbs.	lbs.				
Tobacco ...	223,054	294,664	5,650	8,249	2,599	—
Kola nuts...	864,034	1,015,474	29,586	39,942	10,356	—
	Galls.	Galls.				
Spirits ...	47,316	25,175	6,974	4,872	—	2,102
Wine ...	20,183	18,514	2,115	2,156	41	—
	Cwts.	Cwts.				
Sugar ...	5,953	5,181	5,229	4,655	—	574
	Tons.	Tons.				
Salt ...	1,053	2,622	642	2,211	1,569	—
	Brls.	Brls.				
Gunpowder ...	313	236	669	502	—	167
	Cwts.	Cwts.				
Rice ...	121,359	141,882	52,427	71,889	19,462	—

27. The increase in tobacco was due to the stock on hand at the close of the previous year being very small; in kola nuts to the expectation of a good trading season—the duty collected

on these nuts amounted to £12,695, the largest sum ever realised on this item of revenue. Salt, the product of the Cape Verde Islands, also shows an increase, and the increase in rice, which was 1,026 tons more than the quantity imported in the previous year, was due to the failure of all the corn crops.

28. The decrease in cotton goods was due to the large stocks on hand, and the decrease in spirits can be attributed to the same cause.

29. Of the total value of imports, exclusive of specie:—

53	per cent.	came from	Great Britain,
13	„	„	British Colonies,
20	„	„	France,
1	„	„	French Colonies,
10	„	„	Germany,
1	„	„	Portuguese Colonies, and
2	„	„	Other Countries.

30. The value of imports may be classified as under:—

	£
Specific Commercial Imports	140,799
<i>Ad Valorem</i> „ „	144,210
Free „ „	153,301
	£438,310
Free Government Imports	7,050
	£445,360

(B.) EXPORTS.

31. The total value of exports for the year, inclusive of £117,828 on account of specie, amounted to £408,476, as compared with £428,678 in the previous year.

32. The following return shows the principal articles of export with their values:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Value.			
	1906.	1907.	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.	£	£	£	£
Ground nuts ...	36,050	40,858	278,055	256,685	—	21,370
	lbs.	lbs.				
Rubber	10,454	61,405	1,084	5,686	4,602	—
	Tons.	Tons.				
Palm kernels ...	256	342	2,122	3,657	1,535	—
	lbs.	lbs.				
Wax	46,728	53,408	1,787	2,325	538	—
	No.	No.				
Hides	16,082	30,647	5,201	9,615	4,414	—

33. The principal increases were under rubber, palm kernels, and hides. The export of hides, which in 1902 were valued at £520, has been increasing year by year. It will be seen that this year the value of hides exported amounted to £9,615.

34. The decrease in the value of ground nuts, £21,370, was due to the rains which fell in the last month of 1906 and damaged many of the nuts which had been pulled, with the result that the price was considerably reduced.

35. Of the total exports, exclusive of specie, for the year,—

8½	per cent.	went to	Great Britain,
1	„	„	British Colonies,
82	„	„	France,
2¼	„	„	French Colonies,
2¾	„	„	Germany,
2½	„	„	Holland, and
1	„	„	Other Countries.

36. The destination of the ground nuts was as follows:—

			Tons.	Value. £
Great Britain	...	..	480	3,998
France	...	...	38,091	237,236
Germany	...	...	1,159	8,116
Holland	...	...	1,120	7,282
Other Countries	...	...	8	50
Total	...	...	40,858	256,685

(C.) MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

37. There are no mines in the Colony.

The prospecting expedition run by a French syndicate and referred to in last year's report returned again this year to make further investigations as to whether gold could be found in payable quantities in the upper part of the river. The members of the expedition have returned home by way of the Senegal, but nothing has been learnt as to the result of their researches.

38. The people still continue to make long narrow strips of cloth, which they sew together and make into gowns. A good native-made gown will command a much higher price than anything which can be imported from Manchester. A certain amount of English yarn is used by the natives.

39. A small amount of pottery is made in the Colony.

40. Of fish there is an abundance, and both fishermen from Bathurst and from the French territory find a good trade. Fresh fish can be procured twice daily, and what is not sold is sun-dried and eventually taken up the river and readily exchanged for corn, rice, or millet. The price is very reasonable.

(D.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES, &c.

41. The ground nut is the main product of the Colony and Protectorate. During the year the quantity exported amounted to 40,858 tons, of the value of £256,685. This was an increase tonnage of 4,808 tons over 1906, but owing to heavy and unprecedented rains in December, 1906, a portion of the crop was spoilt; otherwise the output would have been considerably larger. Another cause which helped to reduce the export of this article was that the merchants offered a very low price for the nuts, with the result that many nuts which would ordinarily have come from French territory to English trading stations found their way to Senegal, where the merchants were giving higher prices.

42. In addition to ground nuts large quantities of corn and rice are grown, but the crops are not nearly enough to meet the demand. As regards rice, which is the chief food of the natives, 7,094 tons, of the value of £71,889, were imported during the year.

43. Supplies of pumpkins, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, ochros, and vegetable gourd are sometimes to be obtained, but they are not plentiful. English vegetables such as cabbages, carrots, turnips, lettuces, and French beans can be grown with some success from November to April.

44. Fruit is not plentiful, but excellent oranges, bananas, pawpaws, and mangoes can generally be obtained.

Timber.

45. Mahogany and rosewood trees are to be found in nearly all the districts in the Protectorate, but they are too scattered to allow of a profitable export trade. Both woods are used in the building of cutters, boats, and houses. Rhun palms, of which there are a great number in the Colony, are used as piles for bridges and wharves at the stations along the river—the palm being particularly suitable for this class of work.

General Value of Land.

46. The value of land in Bathurst is gradually increasing, and more buildings are being erected every year. The value is about £200 per acre in a good part of the town, and about £8 for plots of about 80 feet square in the native portion of the town. Beyond the island of Bathurst, but near it, the land is worth about £8 an acre.

(E.) SHIPPING.

47. The total tonnage for the year was 453,784 tons, made up as follows:—

				Tons.
Steam vessels	...	...	...	449,367
Sailing vessels	...	...	...	4,417

48. The following return gives in detail the total tonnage and nationality of the shipping for the years 1906 and 1907, which shows an increase of 49,269 tons in favour of 1907:—

Nationality of Vessels.	1906.			1907.		
	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.	Steamers	Sailing Vessels.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
British	254,842	323	255,165	304,261	242	304,503
French	64,998	2,082	67,080	61,956	1,903	63,859
German	41,148	—	41,148	40,422	—	40,422
Russian	15,130	—	15,130	9,038	—	9,038
American	—	1,976	1,976	—	1,442	1,442
Norwegian	3,936	—	3,936	18,722	—	18,722
Portuguese	—	1,970	1,970	740	830	1,570
Danish	17,312	—	17,312	9,204	—	9,204
Swedish	—	798	798	—	—	—
Greek	—	—	—	5,024	—	5,024
Total... ..	397,366	7,149	404,515	449,367	4,417	453,784

III.—LEGISLATION.

49. Eight Ordinances were passed during the year. The more important were:—

No. 1. “An Ordinance to amend the Protectorate Ordinance, 1902,” wherein (1) the area controlled by a Travelling Commissioner in the Protectorate was altered from “Territory” to “Province,” confusion having arisen owing to the want of a distinctive word; (2) to give the Governor power to appoint a deputy to a Head Chief if necessary; and (3) to give the Governor-in-Council power to make regulations providing for the protection of the staple crop grown in the Colony.

No. 2. An Ordinance declaring that provisions contained in the “Attorney-General’s (Application of Laws) Ordinance, 1902,” shall apply to the Legal Assistant to the Governor. This Ordinance was passed in order to enable the Legal Assistant to perform the duties assigned to the Attorney-General, there being at present no Attorney-General in the Colony.

No. 4. “An Ordinance to provide for the organization and establishment of a Volunteer Force.”

IV.—EDUCATION.

50. There are seven primary schools in the Colony and Protectorate. Five at Bathurst, one in Kommbo, added this year, and one at McCarthy Island. They are established by and are under the management of the various religious denominations, viz.: Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Wesleyan, and receive grants-in-aid from the Government, the Anglican having one school, the Roman Catholics two, and the Wesleyans four primary schools in addition to a secondary and a technical school. There is also a Mohammedan school which receives aid from the Government.

51. There were 1,306 children on the registers of the schools of the Colony, and of this number 1,233 were attending the schools in Bathurst; 124 of these children are on the registers of the Mohammedan school, and 25 on the registers of the Wesleyan Technical School. This total makes a record.

52. 424 children were presented in the standards, of which 278 passed, and in the sub-standards 60 passed out of the 108 children presented. The number of passes also makes a record.

53. The income of the several schools in Bathurst was as under:—

School.	School Fees.	Amount contributed by owners.	Government Grant.	Total.
	£	£	£	£
Anglican	30	98	224	352
Wesleyan	61	234	193	488
Roman Catholic ...	36	338	340	714
Total... ..	127	670	757	1,554

The grants to the Anglican and Roman Catholic include the Government grant of £150 per annum to the superintendent of each school. The Wesleyans have not yet been able to take advantage of this grant.

54. The expenditure of the schools for the year was:—

School.	Buildings.	Repairs.	School Materials.	Salaries.	Other Expenses.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Anglican	—	—	25	318	8	343
Wesleyan	20	25	10	429	4	488
Roman Catholic ...	—	10	65	631	—	714
Total	20	35	100	1,378	12	1,545

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

55. The Wesleyan Missionary Society is the only body which has a secondary school for boys in the Colony. The number on the register is 17, while the average attendance is 13. The school fees amounted to £23, and the expenditure to £69.

TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

56. This school continues under the management of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, and is of an undenominational character. The school has at present 18 boys on its register, of whom 10 are receiving instruction in joinery, &c., two are being taught bricklaying, and five blacksmithery. Those pupils who have not passed the fifth standard receive instruction every day in reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school is under a European instructor, and receives a grant-in-aid from the Government of £300 a year. Some of the boys as soon as they have served their apprenticeship find ready employment in the Public Works Department, and as a rule turn out excellent workmen.

MOHAMMEDAN SCHOOL.

57. This school, which was established in 1903, continues to make good progress. The number of children is 124, one less than last year. The average attendance during the year was 79, as compared with 83 last year. Arabic is taught for three days of the week, and on the other days the pupils receive instruction in English and arithmetic. When the school was first opened the Chiefs in the Protectorate were invited to send their sons to Bathurst to enable them to be properly taught. At first two or three Chiefs sent their boys on condition that they were not to be turned into "trouser-men"; gradually other Chiefs sent their sons, and at present there are ten boys in Bathurst; curious to relate, however, nearly all the Chiefs asked in the early part of this year that their sons might be sent to the Anglican school to learn English. They are sharp youngsters, and many of them are in the higher standards. The boys while in Bathurst are supported by the Government.

58. The expenditure incurred by the Government on account of Education during the year, exclusive of the salary of the Inspector of Schools, amounted to £1,264, made up as follows:—

	£
Contribution to salaries of European Superintendents	300
Contribution to salaries of teachers in the Mohammedan School	137
Grants-in-aid of Schools and Prizes	527
Grant to Wesleyan Industrial School	300
Total	£1,264

59. The total number of children on the school rolls in the Colony was:—

Roman Catholic schools	...	...	481
Wesleyan schools	...	...	498
Anglican school	...	...	178
Mohammedan school	...	...	128
Technical school	...	...	25
Grand total	...	...	<u>1,310</u>

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS.

60. There are two hospitals in Bathurst. The general hospital consisting of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd class wards for men, with an adjoining bungalow for women, and a contagious disease hospital recently erected two miles out of Bathurst, and off the main road going to Cape St. Mary. This hospital was removed from the town as it was found to be too near to the lines erected for the Gambia Company of the West African Frontier Force. It is a great improvement on the old building, which was made of thatch and bamboo. Many improvements have also been made in the general hospital during the year. The consulting and waiting rooms have been converted into the dispensary, affording more room than formerly, and a portion of the old female ward, which was condemned many years ago, has been renovated and converted into a very good consulting room, waiting room, and dressing room for out-patients. This change has been greatly appreciated by the out-patients, as formerly, owing to want of space, they had to wait outside in the open, which was very trying during the rainy season. A staircase has also been built, which allows of patients being taken with ease in a stretcher from the ground floor to the first floor and operating room. Many improvements have been made in this institution during the past six years and it can compare favourably with similar institutions in the other West African Colonies.

61. The accommodation in the wards is as follows:—

			Beds.
First class ward—men	...	...	4
Second class ward—men	...	...	10
Third class ward—men	...	...	24
Female ward	...	...	12

making the total number of beds to 50.

62. The total number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year was 560 or 10 less than in 1906.

63. The following table shows the number of patients in the hospital during the year:—

—	Remaining in hospital on 31st Decem- ber, 1906.	Admitted during the year.	Died.	Remaining in hospital on 31st Decem- ber, 1907.
Europeans	—	27	1	1
Natives	9	382	25	11
Civil police	—	45	1	1
West African Frontier Force.	1	81	2	3
Syrians	—	14	—	—
Total	10	550	29	16

64. Of the 29 deaths in the hospital nine took place within twenty-four hours of admission, and six within forty-eight hours.

65. The deaths in the hospital were mainly due to small-pox, alcoholism, rheumatism, encephalitis, paralysis, tetanus, pericarditis, pneumonia, and nephritis.

66. The number of out-patients treated during the year was 11,893, as compared with 11,293 cases treated in 1906. The old cases numbered 6,699 and the number of new cases was 5,194.

67. Of the European population of 128, of which 39 are officials, there were two deaths, one an official who died from encephalitis, and a factory agent of one of the trading firms who died of malignant malarial fever. A non-official was also invalided.

68. In giving the number of Europeans as 128, it must be remembered that more than half of this number are absent from the Colony during the rainy season, when the conditions are very trying.

69. Among the European officials 14 were on the sick list during the year for an average of $5\frac{1}{2}$ days. This compares favourably with the previous year when 27 officials were on the sick list for an average period of over 8 days.

70. Among the native officials 83 were on the sick list for 383 days, as compared with 91 in 1906, who were on the sick list for 475 days, the average number of days for each patient in 1907 being $4\frac{1}{2}$ days, while in 1906 it was a little over 5 days.

71. Vaccination was carried out throughout the year both in Bathurst, where 1,370 cases were successful, only 41 cases being failures, and in the Protectorate where it is performed by the Commissioners as well as by a Medical Officer. They vaccinated 3,361 persons, but owing to their having to move on from place to place within three or four days after the vaccination had been done, it is difficult to say how many of the cases were successful.

72. In Bathurst there were only three cases of small-pox, which had very probably been contracted elsewhere. In the Protectorate there were several outbreaks, but it is pleasing to be able to record that the natives are rapidly realising the efficiency of vaccination. During the year the people of Brufut, a town not far from Bathurst, refused to allow their children to be vaccinated; a few months afterwards small-pox broke out rather badly in the town. When, however, they saw that the people in the neighbouring towns, with which there was frequent communication, who had been vaccinated, did not catch the disease, they quickly changed their views and clamoured to have it done. The lymph, which for several years past has been obtained from the Liverpool Institute of Comparative Pathology, continues to be most satisfactory.

73. There are no asylums in the Colony. Lunatics are generally sent to the asylum at Sierra Leone. It is proposed to establish a home for destitute persons and those suffering from incurable diseases who are at present met with in the streets begging for alms.

74. While under this head it is desirable to record that a hospital and dispensary has been erected during the year at McCarthy Island, an important trade centre situated about 160 miles up the river. It has been long asked for, and is much appreciated by the natives. It is in charge of a qualified dispenser, who is supervised by the Protectorate Medical Officer.

75. The receipts and expenditure under the Medical Department during the year were as follows:—

RECEIPTS.		£
Maintenance of sick and sale of medicines ...		105
EXPENDITURE.		
Salaries and allowances, &c. ...	£3,247	
Maintenance of sick and purchase of medicines, &c. ...	1,208	
Total ...		<u>£4,445</u>

(B.) SAVINGS BANK.

76. There is only one savings bank in the Colony, which is under the management of the Treasurer. The amount remaining on deposit at the close of the year was £4,877, as compared with £4,712 at the end of 1906. A large portion of these deposits belongs to societies connected with religious communities. During the year the deposits were £2,183, while the withdrawals amounted to £2,136. The interest allowed on deposits at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum amounted to £118. The number of depositors at the end of the year was 309, as compared with 320 in the previous year.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

77. The strength of the force is 72, consisting of a superintendent, assistant superintendent, who are Europeans, and 70 non-commissioned officers and men. The force was reduced in 1906 by 10 men. Sixty-three non-commissioned officers and men are stationed at headquarters and one non-commissioned officer and six men are stationed at various places in the Protectorate.

78. The men are armed with Martini-Enfield carbines and have three seven-pounder R.M.L. guns in their charge. Besides their ordinary duties they are exercised in firing exercise and company drill, and may be regarded as a semi-military force. The force also has charge of a 30-man Merryweather manual fire engine, with which they drill twice weekly. The engine can pump 130 gallons a minute and throw a jet 130 feet high. The number of calls to fires during the year was 10, as against 9 in 1906. The loss by these fires was estimated at £140.

79. The value of property reported to the police during the year as stolen was £121, of which £91 was recovered.

80. The force, whose discipline is very satisfactory, has an excellent band, which has been trained by a European bandmaster.

81. The expenditure on account of the force during the year was £3,647.

(B.) PRISONS.

82. There is one prison in Bathurst, which has accommodation for 30 male and five female prisoners. There is also a small prison at McCarthy Island in which prisoners are detained until they can be sent to headquarters.

83. The building is an old one, but at present answers all the requirements. In the men's portions there are fifteen separate cells and four associated wards, while on the women's side there are two associated wards and one separate cell.

84. The daily average number of prisoners during the year was 19·42, as compared with 12·53 in 1906. Thirteen prisoners were undergoing sentence on the 1st of January, 1907, and 102 were admitted during the year, and at the end of the year there were 21 remaining. There were two deaths in the prison, one from beri-beri and one from nephritis.

85. The prisoners were employed during the year in breaking stones, in cleaning Government compounds, and in white-washing the prison buildings. The value of the work done was estimated at £155, while the expenditure on account of staff and maintenance was £774.

86. There was no corporal punishment inflicted during the year, and the eight offences committed were of a minor nature.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

87. During the year 239 cases were brought before the police court, being 78 cases more than last year. This was due to 64 of the cases being for the offence of selling goods in the market without obtaining in the first instance a stall ticket. They were all petty cases which were met by small fines. The other cases were not of a serious nature, 20 being for “abusive language,” 6 for “loitering on the Government wharf,” 17 for “committing nuisance,” 36 for “being drunk in the public streets”—six less than last year, 20 for “petty larcenies,” 34 for “assault,” 5 for offences under the “Artisans and Servants Ordinance,” and several other small offences. In 169 cases convictions were obtained.

88. Ten cases were tried in the Supreme Court. In five of the cases the charge was “housebreaking and larceny,” two were acquitted, and the remaining three found guilty were sentenced to a week’s imprisonment and a whipping.

PROTECTORATE.

89. Sixteen cases from the Protectorate were tried in the Supreme Court. One for “unlawfully adjudicating on a case in the Protectorate”; one for “shooting with intent to commit murder”; five were found guilty of “abducting a girl under sixteen years of age”; one for “feloniously departing from the limits within which he was ordered to reside by the Governor”; one was found guilty of “cattle stealing”; there was one case of “shopbreaking and larceny”; one case of “murder,” in which the prisoner was found guilty of “manslaughter.” In one case of “unlawfully giving credit” and in another where three men were charged with “manslaughter,” the prisoners were acquitted.

90. Three hundred and thirty-nine cases were adjudicated upon by the native tribunals, mostly for “neglecting to obey the lawful orders of the Chiefs” and for “offences against the person” for which fines were generally imposed. There were only seven cases of imprisonment; there are no cases however which call for special attention.

The cases were distributed as follows:—

North Bank Province	...	...	...	63
South Bank	„	...	...	26
Upper River	„	...	...	172
McCarthy Island	„	...	...	32
Kommbo & Fogni	„	...	...	46
Total	...	...	...	339

91. On the whole the Chiefs and other members of the native tribunals do their work very well, and every year shows some improvement.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

92. The population of the Colony may be taken at 8,807, and that of the Protectorate may be estimated at 137,516, making a total of 146,323.

93. The number of births registered in Bathurst was 326; this represents a birth-rate of 29·1 per 1,000. The deaths recorded were 296, and represent a death-rate of 31·6 per 1,000.

94. There were 29 marriages during the year, which is an increase of 7 on the marriages for 1906.

95. At the beginning of the year the Chiefs and Headmen in the Protectorate were given red and blue books with pencils to match, and had it carefully explained to them that they were to enter all deaths in the red book and all births in the blue book. This they promised to do. A return was made at the end of the year, and the estimated population of each province with the return of births and deaths taken from these books is given hereunder:—

Province.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.
Upper River	49,685	1,892	1,388
McCarthy Island	19,459	964	615
North Bank	49,325	1,417	956
South Bank	12,004	621	476
Kommo and Fogni	7,043	443	334

96. The natives view with suspicion the counting of the people and their cattle, and did not take to the idea of entering in a book every birth or death, but the object was carefully explained to them, and with the assurance that the imposition of a poll-tax was not intended, all the Headmen have made entries in their books. It is too much to say that the present returns can be regarded as accurate, but it is very probable that in a few years these books will give a good idea of the number of births and deaths every year in each district.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

97. The general health of the Colony and Protectorate during the year was good. There was a certain amount of small-pox in the Protectorate, and three mild cases were treated in Bathurst.

(C.) SANITATION.

98. The town of Bathurst was kept in a good sanitary condition during the year. The various wells in the town were

inspected weekly, and the pumps kept in working order. Everything possible has been done to keep these wells and their surroundings clean, but it is a difficult matter to supply the natives with good drinking water. The Europeans, and most of the well-to-do natives, have tanks round their houses which contain sufficient drinking water to last during the eight dry months of the year.

99. In the Protectorate every opportunity is taken of opening up the streets and making the people build their houses in line. There has been a marked improvement in this direction during the past few years. The surroundings of the wells, some of which are very deep, are also kept clean.

(D.) CLIMATE.

100. From the middle of November to April the climate may be said to be not unpleasant; but in the rainy season—July to October—it is very trying, and the mosquitoes add greatly to every one’s discomfort.

101. In the dry season the thermometer sometimes registers as low as 56° in the early morning, but rises during the day to as high as 96° and sometimes 100°. These great variations are very trying. In some of the Provinces of the Protectorate after April the thermometer often rises to 100° and 104°. In the rainy season the temperature ranges between 70° and 90°.

102. The rainfall amounted during the year to 34 inches, which was 32 inches less than the rainfall of the previous year. The average rainfall is about 50 inches.

103. Below will be found the meteorological return for the year:—

Month.	Temperature.					Rainfall.	Winds.
	Solar Maximum.	Shade Maximum.	Shade Minimum.	Range.	Mean.	Amount in inches.	General direction.
January	161	95	57	38	77·4	—	E.
February	162	100	63	37	79·6	—	N.
March ...	165	103	65	38	80·9	—	N.
April ...	160	93	63	30	77·4	—	N.
May ...	158	94	65	29	77·8	—	N.
June ...	160	96	64	32	81·8	1·11	Variable
July ...	159	95	69	26	82·4	4·71	Do.
August	163	95	69	26	81·1	15·92	Do.
September	161	94	69	25	81·9	10·79	Do.
October	162	97	70	27	82·7	1·13	Do.
November	157	92	67	25	77·6	·34	E.
December	157	92	61	31	75·2	—	E.

Total rainfall 34·00 inches.

VIII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

104. There is a fortnightly service of mail steamers belonging to the African Steamship Company and the British and African Steam Navigation Company running between Liverpool and Bathurst. Communication is also held with the Canary Islands and places on the West African Coast by these steamers. Monthly steamers of these lines from London and steamers of the Woermann and other lines from Hamburg call here when inducement offers.

105. In recent years there has been great improvement in the size and speed of the steamers running from Liverpool to Bathurst, but many of them are without a smoking room or ladies' sitting room, so that when unable to stay on deck the saloon has to be sought by every one. The cost of a first class passage from Liverpool to Bathurst used to be £18 10s.; this rate however has recently been increased to £22. The catering on the main line steamers has been much improved, but the unfortunate passengers bound for Bathurst do not share the good fortune which has come to the passengers on those steamers.

106. On the inland waters, besides the Government yacht, there are several steamers belonging to the merchants, which make frequent trips to the upper river. There are also six launches and a fleet of cutters varying in size from 5 to 40 tons. In the ground nut season steamers drawing 10 to 12 feet can easily load their cargoes at McCarthy Island, about 160 miles up the river.

POST OFFICE.

107. The revenue for the Post Office for the year was £745, as against £1,317 in 1906, and of this amount £609 was obtained from the sale of stamps.

108. The expenditure for the same period was £770, of which £247 was expended on the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony. Last year the expenditure was £713.

109. The value of the money orders issued during the year was £1,848, while the value of orders paid during the year amounted to £375.

110. The value of the postal orders issued was £992, and those paid amounted to £184.

TELEGRAPHS.

111. Bathurst is connected with Europe by cable *viâ* St. Vincent, Cape Verde, and also with the other West African Colonies *viâ* Sierra Leone. The annual subsidy of £500, which the Government paid the African Direct Telegraph Company, lapsed last year. There is no inland telegraph in the Colony.

TELEPHONES.

112. A Government telephone exists in Bathurst, and all the principal departments are connected. During the year the barracks of the West African Frontier Force were connected with the lines of the men, and the system was also extended to Cape St. Mary, about seven miles and a half from Bathurst.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

113. The year was not a very prosperous one for the Colony generally. A good crop of ground nuts was anticipated, and at the opening of the trade in November one shilling and nine pence was paid for a bushel. Unfortunately most unusual and heavy rains fell in December, 1906, and damaged the crops, which had been dug and were lying in the fields before being "beaten." The price at once fell to one shilling a bushel, and in some instances to nine pence. The natives were greatly disheartened, and for some time refused to sell. Eventually the prices went up to 1s. 3d. and 1s. 6d. a bushel, but there was great soreness about it. To prevent the possibility of such a disaster occurring again regulations were passed under the Protectorate Ordinance whereby farmers are required to place unbeaten nuts on a platform of brushwood one foot in thickness above the ground, and then to thatch the stacks with palm leaves or grass. When explained to them the planters at once saw the benefit to be derived from these regulations, and they are complied with all over the Protectorate at the end of 1907. The people also suffered in some of their corn crops being destroyed by blight, and some lying on the ground beginning to sprout after the late rains, and consequently ruined. The outlook for the rainy season for the people was very serious, but the Government came to the rescue and made an issue to them of 8,500 bags of rice, the cost of which was recovered in the early part of 1908 without any difficulty. An experimental issue of three tons of maize from Grand Canary was also made to the farmers. The results were most successful, as it grew more quickly than the native corn, produced a larger ear, and was sweeter; the only complaint came from the women who said it was harder to beat into flour.

114. The work of strengthening and extending the Government wharf, which was commenced in 1905, was completed in February, at a cost of £11,895, but unfortunately it was rammed in March by one of Messrs. Elder Dempster and Company's steamers when attempting to come alongside, and two of the bays at one end of the wharf were carried away. The damage done was considerable, but the rebuilding was completed in June, 1908.

115. The work of dredging the Kai Hai Channel, which is estimated to cost £11,882, exclusive of plant, &c., was com-

menced this year, and about 2,726 cubic yards of mud and sand have been removed. The deepening of this channel, which is about 140 miles up the river, will, it is hoped, allow of steamers drawing 15 to 16 feet to proceed to McCarthy Island, a great trading depôt, about 160 miles up the river.

116. During the year various samples of oranges, rubber, and jute were sent to the Imperial Institute for report. The oranges, on which Bathurst rather prides itself, consisted of eight cases containing 929 oranges. They arrived in England in good condition, and samples of the best oranges were submitted to various importers and dealers in London, who were invited to give their views on them. Without exception the opinion of these gentlemen was very disappointing. The oranges were said to look as if they had been picked when too green and had a stale appearance, and were too spotty to obtain a ready sale. One firm sent to inspect the whole consignment with the result that the representative stated that if such oranges arrived in London during a normal Spanish season it was doubtful whether the proceeds of the sale would cover freight and charges. The final decision was that unless the oranges could be considerably improved there was no market for them in London. As regards the rubber *Ficus vogelii*, only a small sample was sent, but its commercial value was placed at about three shillings per pound or a little more if free from stickiness. Two further samples of this rubber, weighing 84 lbs. and 15 lbs. respectively, have been sent to the Imperial Institute, and the report is awaited with interest. Samples of *Urena lobata* fibre were also sent to the Institute, and were reported to be soft, well cleaned and prepared and of good lustre; the strength was good and the length of staple averaged 3 feet. The commercial value was stated to be £17 per ton, and the fibre would be readily saleable in large quantities.

117. It may interest sportsmen to know that while good sport may be obtained in the Gambia, big game is not plentiful. During the year regulations have been passed under "The Wild Animals, Birds, and Fish Preservation Ordinance, 1901," under which some animals and birds are protected from June to the following March, and such birds as marabouts, egrets, bustard, crown birds, &c., are protected from June to December. A sportsman's licence costs £5.

118. The rates of wages generally are higher than in other West African Colonies, and the cost of living both for Europeans and natives is also higher.

119. The Colony is quite unsuited for European labour. More than half of the European community consisting of officials, merchants, and their assistants, leave the Colony during the rainy season—July to November.

120. The death of Mr. Battey, Chief Engineer and Master of Government Vessels, has to be recorded with much regret. He

had been a long time in the service, had done good work, and was very popular with his brother officers. Mr. M. MacAffer was appointed in his place.

121. Dr. R. M. Forde, who had been Senior Medical Officer in the Colony since 1895, was promoted to the office of Principal Medical Officer of Sierra Leone, and Dr. T. Hood, from Sierra Leone, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

122. Generally speaking the condition of the people for the year under review may be said to have been satisfactory, and with good prices obtaining in 1908 every one is satisfied.

123. The following returns are attached:—

(1) Statements showing the imports and exports for the last five years.

(2) A statement showing the imports and exports of specie and other articles for the last five years.

(3) A statement showing shipping, inwards and outwards, for the last five years.

124. Returns showing imports and exports of the Colony for the last five years:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903	105,628	34,658	37,907	6,338	30,259	214,790
1904	88,529	36,824	48,443	4,603	19,031	197,430
1905	88,357	31,089	43,783	1,723	16,773	181,725
1906	142,751	30,769	64,694	5,534	36,741	280,489
1907	155,761	40,895	58,610	2,539	38,186	295,991
Total ...	581,026	174,235	253,437	20,737	140,990	1,170,425

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	British Colonies.	France.	French Colonies.	Other Countries.	Total.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1903	9,405	4,546	254,114	6,650	18,025	290,740
1904	13,003	2,948	183,804	7,550	41,984	249,289
1905	10,283	3,069	140,436	4,169	26,439	184,396
1906	17,904	4,412	225,222	5,031	46,683	299,252
1907	25,221	2,975	238,488	6,568	17,396	290,648
Total ...	75,816	15,950	1,042,064	29,968	150,527	1,314,325

125. Return showing the imports and exports, inclusive of specie, for the last five years :—

Imports.

Articles.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	126,273	108,719	123,456	167,168	149,368
Other articles ...	214,790	197,430	181,725	280,489	295,991
Total ...	341,063	306,140	305,181	447,657	445,359

Exports.

Articles.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
	£	£	£	£	£
Specie	43,277	61,994	95,876	129,426	117,828
Other articles ...	290,740	249,289	184,396	299,252	290,648
Total ...	334,017	311,283	280,272	428,678	408,476

126. Return showing the total shipping—inwards and outwards—during the last five years :—

Year.	British.	Foreign.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1903	24,936	138,341	387,717
1904	232,001	135,559	367,560
1905	204,969	120,267	325,236
1906	255,165	149,350	404,515
1907	304,503	149,281	453,784

H. M. BRANDFORD GRIFFITH,
Acting Governor.

Bathurst, Gambia,

August, 1908.

APPENDIX.

ECONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED AT THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE DURING THE YEAR 1907 FOR THE COLONY OF THE GAMBIA.

Reports from the Imperial Institute have been made to the Government of the Colony on the following subjects, on the basis of investigations conducted in the Scientific and Technical Department, followed when necessary, by technical trials by manufacturers and commercial experts. In many cases recommendations have been made as to the further action which is required in the Colony in order to develop the production of those materials for which it is probable that there would be a satisfactory commercial demand.

Rubber.—A specimen of *Ficus Vogelii* rubber was examined, and found to contain less resin than samples of this rubber previously received at the Imperial Institute from other parts of West Africa. A larger sample has been asked for in order that technical trials may be made.

Cotton.—A sample of unginned native cotton was of fairly good quality and somewhat similar to American cotton, but contained a quantity of stained fibre. It was valued at 7*d.* per lb. with “middling” American at 7·40*d.* per lb.

Jute and jute-like fibres.—The results of the examination of two samples of jute showed conclusively that jute of excellent quality can be grown in the Gambia; the specimens submitted were valued at £21 and £28 per ton.

A number of jute-like fibres from the Gambia have also been examined, including *Hibiscus tiliaceus*, *H. quinquelobus*, *H. rostellatus*, and *Urena lobata*.

Tanning-bark.—A sample of mangrove bark contained too little tannin to be worth consideration for export, but was of special interest on account of the unusually good and light-coloured leather it produced. The bark might be used locally for tanning, or for the manufacture of a tanning extract.

Oranges.—A trial consignment of Kommo (Brufut) oranges was forwarded in order to ascertain their suitability for the English market. The oranges were submitted to experts in London, who reported that the fruit had been gathered too soon, and was of poor appearance and quality. They agree that it is unlikely that Gambia oranges would be saleable on the English market unless fruit of considerably better quality and appearance could be shipped at a time which would enable consignments to reach this country before the large arrivals of Spanish oranges.

Guinea corn.—Specimens of guinea corn grown in the Gambia from Egyptian seed were found to be of excellent quality. This variety of guinea corn appears to be suitable for introduction into the Gambia, and careful experiments on a small scale were recommended with this object.

A number of new exhibits from the Gambia, which were received during the year have been added to the West African Court in the public galleries of the Imperial Institute, and descriptive labels prepared for them. A catalogue of the Gambia exhibits was published in the “Bulletin of the Imperial Institute,” Vol. V. (1907), No. 4, and is now on sale.

Mr. G. C. Dudgeon, the Superintendent of Agriculture for West Africa, has been in constant communication with the Imperial Institute on all matters connected with agricultural operations and development, and has transmitted numerous specimens of economic products for examination at the Imperial Institute.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
541	Turks and Caicos Islands ...	1906
542	Somaliland Protectorate ...	1906-1907
543	Bahamas ...	"
544	Barbados ...	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago ...	"
546	Grenada ...	"
547	Mauritius ...	1906
548	Fiji ...	"
549	Jamaica ...	1906-1907
550	British Guiana ...	"
551	Northern Nigeria ...	"
552	British Honduras ...	1906
553	St. Lucia ...	1906-1907
554	Southern Nigeria ...	1906
555	St. Vincent ...	1906-1907
556	Basutoland ...	"
557	East Africa Protectorate ...	"
558	Uganda Protectorate ...	"
559	Swaziland ...	"
560	St. Helena ...	1907
561	Ceylon ...	"
562	Falkland Islands ...	"
563	Gibraltar ...	"
564	Ashanti ...	"
565	Colonial Survey Committee ...	1907-1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	1907
567	Seychelles ...	"
568	Bermuda ...	"
569	Weihaiwei ...	"
570	Hong Kong...	"
571	Malta ...	1907-1908
572	British Honduras ...	1907
573	Gold Coast ...	"
574	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	1907-1908
575	Bahamas ...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.
45	Do. do. ...	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria ...	Mineral Survey (1904-5)
47	Do. do. ...	Do. (1905-6)
48	Nyasaland Protectorate ...	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate ...	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c. ...	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria ...	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa...	Native Education.
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